

Milk Production

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December Milk Production Up 4.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from December 2004. November revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from November 2004. The November revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

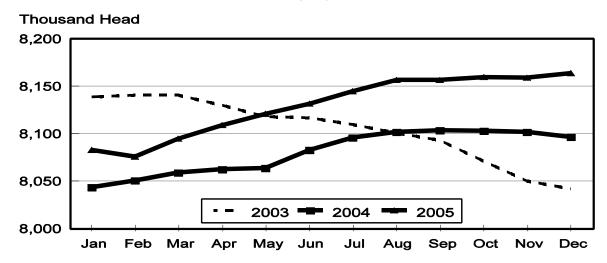
Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,665 pounds for December, 55 pounds above December 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 67,000 head more than December 2004, and 4,000 head more than November 2005.

October - December Milk Production Up 3.9 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Cows 23 States



Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 2004-2005 ¹

	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³			
Quarter	2004 2005		2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004	
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent	
Jan-Mar Apr-Jun Jul-Sep Oct-Dec	8,993 9,001 9,027 9,019	8,996 9,034 9,054 9,050	4,755 4,869 4,679 4,655	4,807 5,054 4,858 4,818	42,759 43,824 42,239 41,983	43,242 45,660 43,984 43,605	1.1 4.2 4.1 3.9	
Annual	9,010	9,034	18,957	19,536	170,805	176,491	3.3	

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 23 Selected States, 2004-2005 ¹

	Milk (Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
Month	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004	
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent	
Jan	8,044	8,083	1,624	1,640	13,061	13,258	1.5	
Feb	8,051	8,076	1,531	1,519	12,329	12,270	-0.5	
Mar	8,059	8,095	1,661	1,702	13,387	13,779	2.9	
Apr	8,063	8,109	1,636	1,683	13,194	13,647	3.4	
May	8,064	8,121	1,692	1,757	13,641	14,266	4.6	
Jun	8,083	8,132	1,607	1,686	12,988	13,712	5.6	
Jul	8,096	8,145	1,623	1,681	13,143	13,692	4.2	
Aug	8,102	8,157	1,601	1,667	12,970	13,595	4.8	
Sep	8,104	8,157	1,533	1,594	12,426	13,005	4.7	
Oct	8,103	8,160	1,583	1,634	12,824	13,336	4.0	
Nov	8,102	8,160	1,531	1,590	12,404	12,974	4.6	
Dec	8,097	8,164	1,610	1,665	13,037	13,592	4.3	
Annual	8,081	8,130	19,232	19,819	155,404	161,126	3.7	

Estimated Milk Cows and Production: By Month, United States, 2004-2005 1

	Milk (Cows ²	Milk Pe	r Cow ³	Milk Production ³			
Month	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004	
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent	
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	8,985 8,993 9,002 8,999 8,991 9,014 9,028 9,029 9,025 9,023 9,021 9,013	8,995 8,984 9,009 9,023 9,034 9,044 9,047 9,057 9,057 9,049 9,046 9,054	1,603 1,512 1,640 1,613 1,670 1,586 1,596 1,574 1,509 1,559 1,509	1,622 1,502 1,683 1,659 1,732 1,663 1,652 1,638 1,568 1,613 1,566 1,639	14,402 13,595 14,762 14,519 15,012 14,293 14,405 14,215 13,619 14,070 13,610 14,303	14,586 13,498 15,158 14,970 15,650 15,040 14,946 14,840 14,198 14,573 14,178 14,854	1.3 -0.7 2.7 3.1 4.2 5.2 3.8 4.4 4.3 3.6 4.2 3.9	
Annual	9,010	9,034	18,957	19,536	170,805	176,491	3.3	

May not add due to rounding.
 Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 Excludes milk sucked by calves.

 ²⁰⁰⁵ revised.
 Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 Excludes milk sucked by calves.

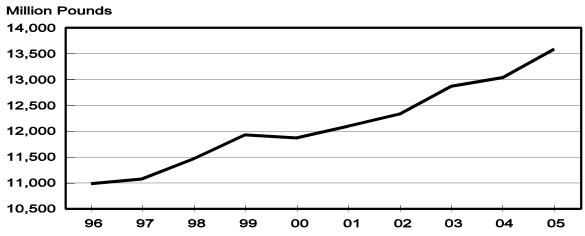
 ¹ 2005 revised.
 ² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 ³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, December 2004-2005

	Milk (Cows 1	Milk Pe	er Cow ²			
State	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent
AZ CA CO FL ID IL IN IA KS KY MI MN MO NM NY OH OR PA TX VT VA WA	166 1,741 102 138 435 106 155 188 111 110 307 460 119 321 650 266 120 565 319 143 104 235	163 1,770 105 135 472 104 158 187 111 102 312 445 114 339 649 273 121 557 324 143 104 237	1,905 1,775 1,845 1,450 1,800 1,540 1,600 1,700 1,680 1,055 1,730 1,475 1,270 1,650 1,485 1,450 1,570 1,490 1,555 1,515 1,420	1,940 1,795 1,890 1,415 1,840 1,570 1,715 1,700 1,730 1,100 1,810 1,560 1,300 1,780 1,545 1,450 1,550 1,580 1,720 1,535	316 3,090 188 200 783 163 248 320 186 116 531 679 151 530 965 386 188 842 496 217 148 452	316 3,177 198 191 868 163 271 318 192 112 565 694 148 603 1,003 396 188 880 557 220 152 453	2.8 5.3 -4.5 10.9 9.3 -0.6 3.2 -3.4 6.4 2.2 -2.0 13.8 3.9 2.6 4.5 12.3 1.4 2.7 0.2
WI 23-State	1,236	1,239	1,490	1,555	1,842	1,927	4.6
Total	8,097	8,164	1,610	1,665	13,037	13,592	4.3

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

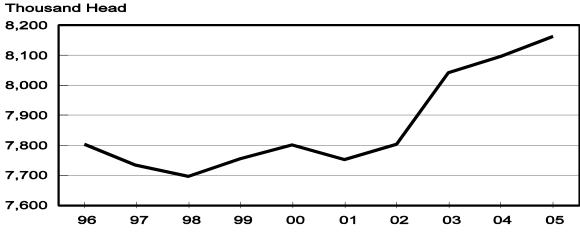
December Milk Production, 1996-2005 23 States 1/



Milk Cows and Production: By State, November 2004-2005 ¹

	Milk (Cows ²	Milk pe	er Cow ³		Milk Production ³	
State	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent
AZ CA CO FL ID IL IN IA KS KY MI MN MO NM NY OH OR PA TX VT VA WA WI	168 1,741 103 137 434 106 154 190 112 109 306 460 120 322 651 266 120 563 320 144 104 235 1,237	161 1,770 105 136 471 104 157 187 112 102 312 450 114 337 648 271 121 556 321 142 105 240 1,238	1,760 1,700 1,760 1,250 1,720 1,450 1,540 1,610 1,580 1,030 1,660 1,390 1,215 1,605 1,410 1,390 1,420 1,455 1,415	1,840 1,725 1,820 1,220 1,790 1,480 1,650 1,650 1,040 1,735 1,440 1,230 1,720 1,485 1,400 1,500 1,630 1,460 1,370 1,480	296 2,960 181 171 746 154 237 306 177 112 508 639 146 517 918 370 179 799 466 204 139 429 1,750	296 3,053 191 166 843 154 259 303 185 106 541 648 140 580 962 379 180 834 523 207 144 442	3.1 5.5 -2.9 13.0 9.3 -1.0 4.5 -5.4 6.5 1.4 -4.1 12.2 4.8 2.4 0.6 4.4 12.2 1.5 3.6 3.0 5.0
23-State Total	8,102	8,160	1,531	1,590	12,404	12,974	4.6

December Milk Cows, 1996-2005 23 States 1/



 ²⁰⁰⁵ revised.
 Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States, Revised July-September, 2004-2005

State	Jul-Sep Milk	Cows 1	Jul-Sep Milk Pr	Change	
State	2004	2005	2004	2005	From 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent
AL	17	16	52	47	-9.6
ΑK	1.2	1.1	3.8	3.4	-10.5
ΑZ	162	161	839	871	3.8
AR	24 1,733	22 1,763	74	67	-9.5
CA CO	1,/33	1,763	9,133	9,360 611	2.5 11.1
CT	103	20	550	92	-3.2
DE	7.0	7.5	95 29.0	32.3	11.4
FL	138	135	495	492	-0.6
GA	84	81	319	310	-2.8
H	6.0	5.3	19.0	17.4	-8.4
D	430	466	2,358	2,678	13.6
L	107	104	476	473	-0.6
N	150	156	718	778	8.4
A	192 115	187 112	937 549	927	-1.1
KS KY	110	106	349	564 325	2.7 -4.7
LA	37	34	101	87	-13.9
ME	34	33	156	151	-3.2
MD	73	33 72	277	281	1.4
MA	17	16	73	72	-1.4
MΙ	303	313	1,580	1,685	6.6
MN	465	453	1,984	2,018	1.7
MS	27	25	80	79	-1.3
MO	121	116	436	405	-7.1
MT NE	18 61	19 60	88 254	95 263	8.0 3.5
NV	25	25	129	137	6.2
NH	16	16	74	74	0.2
ŊĴ	12	12	49	47	-4.1
NM	327	331	1.693	1,778	5.0
NY	655	648	2,907 241	3,053	5.0
VC	56	54	241	227	-5.8
ND	34	32 270	134	132	-1.5
OH OK	266	270	1,128	1,175	4.2
OR	77 120	75 121	307 581	311 583	1.3 0.3
PA	560	561	2,465	2,630	6.7
N N	1.1	1.1	4.7	4.7	0.7
SC	17	17	63	61	-3.2
SD	80	81	333	358	7.5
ΓΝ	75	69	265	250	-5.7
ГΧ	320	320	1,412	1,552	9.9
JT	88	88	416	427	2.6
VT	145	143	645	656	1.7
VA	104	105 242	415	428	3.1
WA WV	236 13	13	1,356 47	1,433 48	5.7 2.1
W V WI	1,240	1,236	5,541	5,817	5.0
WY	4.3	5.0	16.3	18.5	13.5
JS ³	9,027	9,054	42,239	43,984	4.1

Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 Excludes milk sucked by calves.
 May not add due to rounding.

Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States, Preliminary October-December, 2004-2005

State	Oct-Dec Milk	Cows 1	Oct-Dec Milk P	Change	
State	2004	2005	2004	2005	From 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent
AL	17	15	56	50	-10.7
ΑK	1.2	0.9	3.4	2.7	-20.6
AΖ	167	162	910	908	-0.2
AR	23 1,741	21	73	64	-12.3
CA	1,741	1,770	9,130	9,381	2.7
CO	103	105	553	587	6.1
CT	20	20	95 31.5	92 29.8	-3.2
DE FL	7.5	7.1 135	531.5	511	-5.4 -3.8
GA	84	79	334	329	-1.5
HI	5.8	5.1	17.4	15.3	-12.1
D	434	471	2,310	2,590	12.1
Ĺ	106	104	474	474	12.1
N	154	157	726	791	9.0
A	190	187	939	928	-1.2
KS	112	112	544	565	3.9
ΚY	109	102	341	325	-4.7
LA	36	32	108	95	-12.0
ME	33	32	148	142	-4.1
MD MA	73 17	71	285	281	-1.4
MI	306	16 312	73 1,565	70 1,664	-4.1 6.3
MN	460	448	1,974	2,006	1.6
MS	26	24	86	82	-4.7
MO	120	114	445	425	-4.5
MT	18	19	86	93	8.1
NE	61	60	264	268	1.5
VV	25	26	128	140	9.4
NH	16	16	74	74	
NJ	12 322	12	47	46	-2.1
NM NY	651	337 649	1,593 2,843	1,773	11.3 4.6
NC	55	53	2,843	2,973 231	-4.5
ND	55 33	33	127	132	3.9
ÖH	266	53 33 271	1,131	1,164	2.9
OK	75	75	297	293	-1.3
OR	120	75 121	556	557	0.2
PA	564	557	2,466	2,579	4.6
RI	1.1	1.0	4.5	4.4	-2.2
SC	18	17	69	69	
SD	80 73	81 69	338 270	358 257	5.9 -4.8
ΓN ΓX	320	322	1,432	1,594	-4.6 11.3
UT	89	85	397	413	4.0
VT	144	142	632	641	1.4
VA	104	105	428	440	2.8
WA	235	240	1,324	1,362	2.9
WV	13	13	48	49	2.1
VI	1,237	1,238	5,418	5,664	4.5
WY	4.4	6.2	16.3	22.9	40.5
JS ³	9,019	9,050	41,983	43,605	3.9

Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
 Excludes milk sucked by calves.
 May not add due to rounding.

Reliability Statement

Survey Procedures: Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data, rather than conduct a monthly or quarterly survey, to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January and July Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Milk production, rate per cow, and number of cows are subject to revision the following month for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, Federal Market Order sales are the main basis for revisions. However, data for all orders are not available in time for this revision. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions are made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items on the next page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for milk cow inventory estimates over the past 10 October - December quarters is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final October - December estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.05 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.6 percent.

Reliability of October-December Milk Estimates $^{\rm 1}$

	Root 90%		Λ0/-	П	Difference Between	Quarters		
Item	Mean Square	Confidence			First and Lates Estimates	First Above	First Below	
	Error	L	evel	Average	Smallest	Largest	Latest	Latest
	Percent	Percent	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Number	Number
Milk Production	0.4 Percent	0.8 Percent	349 1,000 Head	147 1,000 Head	1 1,000 Head	265 1,000 Head	6 Number	4 Number
All Milk Cows	0.3	0.6	54	21	2	58	9	1

¹ Based on records for the past 10 October-December quarters.

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